

REMARKS

The rejected claims have been amended to specify the cork is natural cork. Basis for this recitation is explained at length in the Appeal Brief previously filed.

The continued allowance of claims 2-8 is noted with appreciation.

The rejection of claims 10 and 11 under 35 USC § 102 over the newly cited Ramzeilles reference is respectively traversed. The reasons that art that does not teach or suggest natural cork has been set forth in said Appeal Brief and is incorporated herein by reference. The rejected claims, before or after the foregoing amendment, are/were directed to natural cork. The translator's note at the top of the first page of the translation of Ramzeilles acknowledges the reference is unrelated to natural cork. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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